

**MAINE FUEL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: May 14, 2014
Meeting Location: Central Conference Room
Time Meeting Began: 9:05 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chair, Barry Austin, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Barry Austin
Paul McClay
Lionel Landry
Jeffrey Choate
Charles Martin
David Foster
Mark Bossie

The following members were absent:

Dale Canning
Jonathan Klages

Staff Present:

Catherine Carroll, Board Administrator
Vickey Gray, Board Clerk
Peter Holmes, Senior Inspector
Holly Doherty, OPOR Attorney

AAG Present:

Judith Peters

OLD BUSINESS

Action on Board Minutes of February 28, 2014 - A motion was made to approve the February 28, 2014 minutes.

Motion: Paul McClay
Second: David Foster
Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

Adjudicatory Hearing (2014-FUE-9852)

The respondent notified the staff prior to the start of the meeting by telephone message that a family emergency had taken place and requested that the hearing be postponed. Catherine Carroll will send the respondent a letter confirming the request to postpone and to re-schedule the hearing at the next meeting.

Complaint Presentation (2013-FUE-9270)

Judith Peters presented the facts of the case. A motion was made to dismiss the complaint as no evidence of noncompliance with the code was found.

Motion: Paul McClay
Second: David Foster
Unanimous

Pellet Boiler Stakeholders Group Update

Lionel Landry, Chairman of the Pellet Boiler Stakeholders Group, informed the Board that the group determined that because of the nature of the equipment, the combustion process and the average moisture in wood pellet fuel the following existing rules meant for wood fired boilers do not apply to the installation of central wood pellet fired appliances into existing masonry chimneys.

- Galvanized flue connectors (NFPA 211 Chapter 12.4.1.2)
- 2" combustion clearance to interior chimneys (NFPA 211 Chapter 7.2)
- 1" combustion clearance to exterior chimneys (NFPA 211 Chapter 7.2)

The group recommended suspending the current emerging technology pilot program and instituting a new pilot program available to any contractors. Under the new program a master licensed oil technician and journeyman under indirect supervision of a qualified master would be allowed to install all wood pellet central heating appliances provided the installer can show proof of attending product specific training and that those installations would be eligible for the chimney clearance and flue connector exemptions listed in the Board's rules. This new program would stay in effect until there's a licensing overhaul and exemptions can be codified.

A motion was made to accept the working group's report with gratitude and to entertain any future proposed pilot programs.

Motion: Paul McClay
Second: David Foster
Opposed: Mark Bossie
Recused: Lionel Landry
Motion Carried

The members voted to go into executive session for legal advice from Assistant Attorney General Judith Peters at 10:25 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 10:33 a.m.

A motion was then made to issue an amended Decision and Order to Maine Energy Systems, Inc. to waive the use of galvanized flue connectors in Chapter 107(1)(3) which adopts NFPA 211 Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid Fuel Appliances 2006 Edition, Chapter 12 Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Section 12.4.1.2.

Motion: Mark Bossie
Seconded: David Foster
Unanimous

Senior Inspector's Report - Peter Holmes reported on the following:
Emerging Tech Pilot Project

- 7 additional applications bringing total to 10 in year 2
- All but 2 done by same technician
- Violations found at all of them-
- Predominately electrical
 - Emergency switch placement
 - Thermal Switch placement
 - Overcrowded j-boxes
 - Box openings not closed
 - FMC support

Request from SFMO

- Manufactured Home – possible fatality of child- called on a Saturday- Suspected meth lab had to be cleared before we could go in. Cecil able to rule out furnace as cause of fire.

CNG

- Eliot compressor station almost complete
- Planned Dispenser not in progress yet – Proposed for fueling tractors to transport CNG
- Madison & Lincoln taken off line for natural gas

Bulk plants & Dispenser Stations

- Many bulk plants in works (at least 12)
- ALMS system working well for tracking information on bulk plants
- Dispenser applications starting to trickle in

Licensing Reorganization Project

- Power Point Presentation

Administrators Report

Catherine Carroll informed the Board that Prometric has indicated that the revisions to the Maine Fuel Board Examinations will be in production by July 31, 2014.

Catherine advised the members that individuals who are applying for initial oil and solid fuel licensure can now complete their application online effective May 14, 2014.

Public Hearing on Chp. 13

Barry Austin opened the public hearing at 1:00 p.m. Public comments were received. The hearing was closed at 2:05 p.m.

University of Maine – Composite Structure

The Board reviewed the University's request to revise the Board's original approval to deviate from NFPA 31 requirements for the Composite Bridge Structural Test at the Orono Landfill. The request was made to change the location of the test to a welding and machine shop in Greenfield, Maine.

A motion was made to amend the original approval and allow the testing to occur at the welding and machine shop in Greenfield, Maine and that the installers have proper licenses.

Motion: Mark Bossie
Second: Charles Martin
Unanimous

OTHER BUSINESS

David Pinkham – Propane license renewal request

A motion was made to grant David Pinkham's propane and natural gas license renewal request with a Letter of Guidance.

Motion: Lee Landry
Second: Mark Bossie
Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:20 p.m.

Motion: Charles Martin
Second: Paul McClay
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Vickey Gray